

**For:** State and County Offices**Revised Policy for Practice CP23****Approved by:** Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs**1 Overview****A Background**

In February and March 2003, State Offices were provided training implementing the 2002 Act and other procedure and policy changes to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), including an administrative decision making practice CP23, Wetland Restoration eligible for continuous signups. Historically, enrollment has primarily been located in the prairie pothole and, to a limited extent, delta regions. The buffer to wetland ratio policy has allowed enrollments with up to 6 acres of buffer to 1 acre of wetland where needed and feasible according the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

Some State and County Offices have reported an active interest in offering land for the practice. Flood plains are some of the most critical ecosystems in the nation. They are critical for protecting and enhancing water quality, reducing impacts of flooding, and restoring critical wildlife habitat. Restoration of wetlands and implementation of the new 500,000-acre bottomland hardwood tree initiative will assist agriculture producers to protect floodplains on a voluntary basis.

The 2002 Act provided authority to enroll up to 39.2 million acres. Because about 34.2 million acres are already enrolled, 2.0 million acres were accepted under general signup 26, and an additional 2.0 million acres are committed to FWP, continuous, and CREP, additional acres for other initiatives are limited. Further, the Secretary announced in April 2003 a bottomland hardwood tree initiative for enrollments of up to 500,000 acres.

**Disposal Date**

May 1, 2004

**Distribution**State Offices; State Offices relay to County  
Offices

## 1 Overview (Continued)

### B Purpose

This notice provides revised policy for practice CP23 to:

- limit CP23 eligible land
- limit total eligible acres available for enrollment
- limit acres enrolled as a buffer
- provide a State allocation of acres (see Exhibit 1). State enrollments shall not exceed the State's allocation.

**Note:** This policy is effective for offers received after receipt of this notice. Policy in 2-CRP otherwise applies.

For offers received before receipt of this notice, follow procedure in 2-CRP.

### C Objectives

The objective of the CP23 practice is to restore wetlands adjacent to permanent streams and rivers to:

- restore and enhance water quality
- reduce impacts of flood events
- enhance wildlife habitat
- protect and restore floodplains.

## 2 Policy

### A Total Acres Enrolled

Total acres enrolled shall not exceed 500,000 acres:

- nationwide
- for the practice
- from offers accepted and contracts approved after receipt of this notice.

**Note:** Acres under CREP (CP23) are not counted against the 500,000 acre limitation.

**2 Policy (Continued)**

**B Eligible Land**

Total eligible cropland for wetland restoration is limited to:

- cropland according to 2-CRP, paragraph 97
- cropland within the 100-year flood plain of a permanent river or stream
- an offer that requires a minimum of 51 percent hydric soils of the offer (nonbuffer acres)
- an offer that includes a buffer outside the 100-year flood plain may be enrolled if otherwise eligible and needed and feasible for the practice.

**C Buffer to Wetland Ratio**

Buffers are allowed under contract in combination with acres enrolled if required to protect and enhance the practice according to the NRCS FOTG. Land may be offered as a buffer to the wetland:

- if required to protect and enhance the practice according to NRCS FOTG standards
- not to exceed a 3 to 1 ratio of buffer to wetland.

**D Incentives**

Practice CP23 has a one-time incentive to encourage the restorage of cropped wetlands provided. The one-time incentive payment is equal to 25 percent of the cost of restoring the hydrology of the site according to 2-CRP, paragraph 372 and Exhibit 9.

**Note:** Other incentives, including SIP and PIP, do **not** apply to practice CP23.

**3 Action**

**A State Office Action**

State Offices shall:

- provide a copy of this notice to County Offices
- provide a copy of this notice to the NRCS State Office
- monitor acres and not allow enrollments to exceed the State's allocation for CP23 offers received after the date of this notice.

**B County Office Action**

County Offices shall:

- provide a copy of this notice to the County NRCS Office
- ensure procedure in this notice and 2-CRP are followed.

## State Allocation

State	State Acre Allocation
Alabama	5,000
Alaska	0
Arizona	0
Arkansas	20,000
California	4,000
Colorado	150
Connecticut	300
Delaware	150
Florida	450
Georgia	2,000
Hawaii	450
Idaho	450
Illinois	75,000
Indiana	12,000
Iowa	68,000
Kansas	24,000
Kentucky	5,000
Louisiana	30,000
Maine	150
Maryland	900
Massachusetts	150
Michigan	4,000
Minnesota	17,000
Mississippi	50,000
Missouri	75,000
Montana	900
Nebraska	10,000
Nevada	0
New Hampshire	300
New Jersey	100
New Mexico	0
New York	900
North Carolina	23,000
North Dakota	1,000
Ohio	8,000
Oklahoma	1,000
Oregon	2,000

## State Allocation (Continued)

<b>State</b>	<b>State Acre Allocation</b>
Rhode Island	0
Pennsylvania	5,000
South Carolina	2,000
South Dakota	3,000
Tennessee	23,000
Texas	5,000
Utah	150
Vermont	150
Virginia	600
Washington	2,000
West Virginia	2,000
Wisconsin	5,000
Wyoming	600
Puerto Rico	150
<b>Reserve</b>	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>500,000</b>